

**MINUTES
STATE PRESERVES ADVISORY BOARD
May 4, 2001**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Neil Bernstein
Robin Fortney
Kathy Gourley
Gary Phillips, Chairperson
Timothy Sproul
Lois Tiffany
Jeff Vonk

ADVISORS PRESENT

Diane Ford-Shivvers
Robert McKay

ADVISORS ABSENT

Dorothy Baringer
Rebecca Conard
Jan Nash
Shirley Schermer
Daryl Smith

STAFF PRESENT

Daryl Howell
John Pearson
Steve Pennington

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gary Phillips called the May 15, 2001 meeting to order at 1:10 P.M.

APPROVE AGENDA

The following additions were made to the agenda:

- 4b Update on the Loess Hills Special Resource Study by John Pearson
- 4c Report on the Brushy Creek Trails Advisory Meeting by Robin Fortney
- 4d Special Presentation by Jeff Vonk

<p><i>Motion was made by Lois Tiffany to approve the agenda. Seconded by Robin Fortney. Motion carried unanimously.</i></p>
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APPROVE MINUTES

The following corrections were made to the March 28, 2001 minutes:

- Show Neil Bernstein as being present
- Correction on page 2 under the Highway 100 Project, second paragraph, “major conservancy” should read “nature conservancy”
- Add the statement: “Board members can go to public hearings to present their views.”

Motion was made by Neil Bernstein to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Tim Sproul. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSAL SELECTION

Daryl Howell said at the last meeting there had been some questions about the final selections. They made contact with Cathy Mabry who agreed to do Rolling Thunder for \$1,000. The remaining \$1,400 was offered to Heiser who declined, so it was offered to Sandy Whidden to do Searryl's Cave. This left an excess of a couple hundred dollars which the staff would like to use to purchase a GPS unit.

Motion was made by Neil Bernstein to approve the purchase of the GPS unit. Seconded by Robin Fortney. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

Daryl Howell said he had made the changes that had been suggested prior to the meeting and asked if there were any more suggestions.

Neil Bernstein asked for a change in section 2.1(2) paragraph a. Natural Preserves. The sentence will now read: These areas contain natural communities, habitats, native flora and fauna, or contain endangered, threatened, or rare organisms.

Bob McKay said he would like to see no changes made to 2.1(2) paragraph d. Geological Preserves, because the old definition is more descriptive of what is in or could be put in the geological preserve system.

Kathy Gourley said under 2.1(2) paragraph e. Scenic preserves, the description should read: “These are areas that provide scenic features of aesthetic, scientific, or educational value.”

Tim Sproul said he would like to strike the second to the last sentence of 2.2(2) Management and use. It was decided that the sentence should read, “The management plan shall identify compatible and non compatible uses.

Robin Fortney said she was concerned about 2.2(3) Reports and records, being deleted. It was decided that requirement will be added to the management plans.

Jeff Vonk said he had questions about page three, Item 1. Amend rule 575 – 1.2(465).

John Pearson said this rule had to read this way because it is the way the code was written in 1965 when the ecologist was not an employee of the DNR. It was decided to address changing the code at a later date.

Motion was made by Neil Bernstein to approve the Administrative rule as amended. Seconded by Lois Tiffany. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON LOESS HILLS SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY

John Pearson said the release of the special resource study has been delayed because an economic impact study needs to be conducted. At this point they are looking at a July release date.

REPORT ON THE BRUSHY CREEK TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Robin Fortney said the Brushy Creek Trail Advisory Board last met on April 18th and did not involve the preserve in any way. She said Representative Mike O'Brien participated in the meeting and gave an update on the state of the economy. There was discussion on the state of construction and what still needs to be done.

Robin Fortney said it might be a good idea to invite legislators to attend the State Preserves Advisory Board meetings.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO LOIS TIFFANY

Jeff Vonk presented a plaque in recognition of six years of service on the State Preserve Advisory Board to Lois Tiffany.

Lois Tiffany said that it had been a pleasure to work with the board.

STRATEGIC PLAN ACTION STEPS

Gary Phillips said the Board finalized the activities on the strategic plan a year ago in Sioux City and then it was put on the back burner to deal with some of the other issues that needed attention. He then reviewed the action steps.

Diane Ford-Shivvers distributed a draft outline for a plan to develop a Friends of the Preserves Group and a description of the Polk County Corps of Recovery structure as a model to use in developing it. She said Paul Johnson, Joel Hanes, and Jon Steege have agreed to serve on a steering committee and made suggestions for others who may be willing to participate. She said Mike Smith from the Attorney General's Office agreed to assist in developing the 501c3 for the Preserves Friends Group so they can accept funding.

Diane Ford-Shivvers said there will be a conference including IOWATER, Keepers of the Land, and Iowa Academy of Science on November 16 and 17 at the Hotel Fort Des Moines to recognize volunteers.

Gary Phillips said the volunteer plan looked like the best approach to take to reach the goals of the long range plan.

Glen Pollock from the Iowa Prairie Network said there are six pioneer cemeteries in Crawford County that contain quality prairies and he suggested that those six could serve as one preserve.

Diane Ford Shivvers said she thought it was important that at least one Board member attend each of the Natural Resources Commission meetings on a regular basis.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Gary Phillips said at the last meeting it was requested by the board that he write letters to Linn County Conservation Board in support of their position paper, the Nature Conservancy and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation regarding Loess Hills Farmland Protection Program proposals, and to Dickenson County Conservation District in regard to the Civil Lake Watershed Development project all of which have been written, posted, approved and sent. He said a letter to the Director of the Department of Transportation in support of Linn County Conservation Board position paper, has been drafted and will be posted for approval.

John Pearson said the Department is anticipating a release date in December for the new State Preserves Guide.

Diane Ford-Shivvers said turnout for the Prairie Rescue Day on Earthday, April 21 varied from 100 people down to 3 per preserve. She said it has been suggested that another Prairie Rescue Day should be scheduled in September.

Brent Olson suggested that the State Preserves Board solicit ideas from area managers, conservation groups, etc, when looking for new preserve sites.

Robin Fortney suggested that either an introduction be done at the beginning of every meeting or name tags be ordered for the Board members.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at Pine Lake State Park Lodge on the afternoon of August 3 in Hardin County. The tour will be a canoe trip down the Iowa River on Saturday, August 4, 2001.

The final meeting for the year will be held on November 16 in conjunction with the volunteer recognition conference.

BOARD TOUR

The Preserves Advisory Board toured several locations in Harrison County after the meeting on Friday including Prairie Hill, The Craft Farmstead, and Loess Hills Forest Overlook. On Saturday the Susanne Hickey lead a tour of Baylor Farm, a privately owned prairie in Fremont County.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the State Preserves Advisory Board, Chairperson Gary Phillips adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m., Tuesday, May 4, 2001.

A

Adjournment, 5
Administrative Rule Changes
Chapters 1 and 2, 2

B

Board Tour, 5

G

General Discussion, 4

N

Next Meeting, 4

P

Presentation of plaque to lois tiffany, 3
Proposal Selection
Update, 2

R

Report on the Brushy Creek trail Advisory Board
meeting, 3

S

Strategic Plan action steps, 3

U

Update on Loess Hills special resource study, 3